

The Michigan Parole Board and The Parole Consideration Process

The Parole Board is comprised of 10 members appointed by the director of the Department of Corrections. Parole Board Members are non-civil service positions. A member is appointed for a 4-year term. At the end of that term the member may or may not be reappointed.

The Parole Board obtains jurisdiction over a case when a prisoner reaches the minimum sentence imposed by the court. In order to determine whether a parole should be granted the Board Members look at many aspects of the prisoner's criminal and social history and sentence. The statute states "A prisoner shall not be given liberty on parole until the board has reasonable assurance, after consideration of all of the facts and circumstances, including the prisoner's mental and social attitude, that the prisoner will not become a menace to society or to the public safety."

The Parole Consideration Process

The information below explains how the Parole Board gets involved in any given case and the role it plays in the sentence of a prisoner.



When an individual is found guilty of a felony charge the sentencing judge has various means of punishment at their disposal. The two main sentencing options are for the individual to be placed on probation or sentenced to serve time with MDOC.



A pre-sentence investigation (PSI) report, including a sentencing recommendation, is prepared by a Parole/Probation agent.

If the individual is sentenced to serve state time they are transferred to one of MDOC's intake facilities, where their risk, needs and strengths are assessed, certain program recommendations are made, and they are classified to a particular level of custody.

The prisoner continues to serve their sentence until they reach their first parole eligibility date.

Approximately 8 months prior to their parole eligibility date, a Parole Eligibility Report (PER) will be requested and the prisoner will be placed on the schedule to be considered by the Board.



Most prisoners are interviewed by one member of the Parole Board. At the interview all aspects of the prisoner's criminal and social history and sentence will be discussed. The prisoner has the right to contest the facts contained in their PER and present information to the Parole Board Member. The prisoner has the right to have one representative present at their hearing. This representative cannot be another prisoner, nor can it be an attorney.



The case is assigned to a three member panel. The panel's decision is made by a majority vote.



Those who are granted a parole are then released back into their community. This release is conditional. They are to abide by all of the parole conditions and must continue to report to their parole agent.



Those who violate the conditions of parole and/or commit additional crimes while on parole face consequences and may be returned as Parole Violators. Following a hearing the Parole Board decides whether the prisoner is reparaoled or ordered to remain in prison.